

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4208

March 29, 2019

The Honorable Betty McCollum
Chairman
Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies Appropriations
2256 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Joyce
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies Appropriations
1124 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman McCollum and Ranking Member Joyce:

The Mississippi River and its tributaries, collectively known as the Mississippi River Basin, is one of the most valued ecosystems in the world. The basin is the fourth largest watershed in the world and the largest in the Nation. Economic output from recreational fishing in the basin exceeds \$19 billion (estimated by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service). The Basin is comprised of six (6) sub-basins: Upper Mississippi, Ohio, Lower Mississippi, Tennessee-Cumberland, Missouri, and Arkansas-Red-White.

Invasive species, especially Asian carp have been successful invaders of the basin because of their ability to quickly colonize new habitats. In response, The Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force approved the Management Plan for Asian Carp in the United States for implementation in 2007. The Mississippi Interstate Cooperative Resource Association (MICRA), a partnership of 28 state agencies with fisheries management jurisdiction to provide for coordinated Asian carp management and control.

The primary funding tool state agencies utilize for invasive species control is the state Aquatic Nuisance Species plan. The State ANS Management Plan grant program is administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). In 2000, the USFWS provided at \$100,000 per state plan for implementation; FY2018 funding level of \$2 million provided only at \$47,000 per approved plan (44 approved plans). We are requesting \$4.4 million be appropriated to restore effective funding for each state ANS management plan through NISA so that states can adequately address aquatic nuisance species across the Mississippi River Basin.

In 2015, Congress began appropriating funds to the USFWS for the management, control and eradication of Asian carp. This funding has been authorized for use specifically in the Upper Mississippi and Ohio sub-basins and the Great Lakes. This approach to funding leaves 4 of the 6 sub-basins and portions completely unfunded. The total USFWS funding for Asian Carp management in 2019 was \$11 million, again directed only to the Upper Mississippi and Ohio River sub-basins and the Great Lakes. We are requesting that a total of \$25 million be appropriated to USFW for Asian carp management to protect our Nation's rivers and the Great Lakes. Additionally, we support report language clarifying the Mississippi River Basin and tributaries, includes the Upper Mississippi River Sub-basin, Missouri River Sub-basin, Arkansas-Red-

White River Sub-basin, Lower Mississippi River Sub-basin, Tennessee Cumberland Sub-basin, and Ohio River Sub-basin.

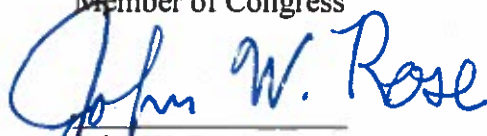
Thank you for taking the time to consider our request.



David Kustoff
Member of Congress



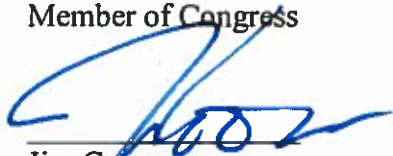
Tim Burchett
Member of Congress



John W. Rose
Member of Congress



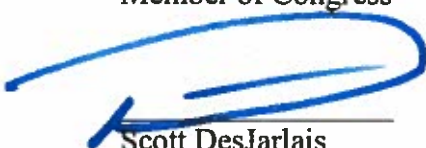
Mark E. Green
Member of Congress



Jim Cooper
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Scott DesJarlais
Member of Congress

Sincerely,



James Comer
Member of Congress



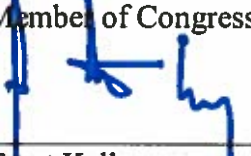
Andy Barr
Member of Congress



Bradley Byrne
Member of Congress



Mo Brooks
Member of Congress



Trent Kelly
Member of Congress



Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress



Michael Guest
Member of Congress



Carol D. Miller
Member of Congress